

# Case Study: Manchester Tank & Equipment



## OVERVIEW

Manchester Tank, a leading manufacturer of low-pressure vessels for North America and Australia, needed a CMMS to automate equipment maintenance. They chose PMC for its ease of use. The result? A 20% reduction in downtime.

## MARKET

Manufacturing

## PRODUCTS

PMC

Manchester Tank & Equipment, a leading manufacturer of low-pressure vessels for North America and Australia, produces dozens of different products for propane, air, and industrial uses. The more than 400 pieces of manufacturing equipment they use are located throughout a 150,000-square-foot production facility, creating a major challenge for the company's 12-person maintenance crew.



In the view of plant engineer Jim Miller, who oversees maintenance at Manchester Tank, the alternative to the company's PMC software package wouldn't be a pretty one. "It would be a cumbersome, time-consuming system," he says, explaining that without PMC, the facility's equipment would have to be tracked the old-fashioned way: by filing manual work orders.

"Every Monday I would have to pull out that week's preventive maintenance reminders, put together an inspection form, pass it along to the people who do the work, and then bring it back in and move the tickler for whatever time the next inspection is due. PMC, on the other hand, is an automated system that puts it all together."

## Automating Repetitive Inspections

Miller credits a background in aviation maintenance for giving him an appreciation of the value of computerized maintenance management systems (CMMS). "I knew how a CMMS could automate our functions and save time and money. We looked at several programs and decided to go with PMC because it was a nice, simple program."

Miller and his staff, especially maintenance supervisor DeVone Felty, depend on PMC's work order and scheduling models to organize repetitive inspections and to keep the facility's machinery up and running.

"We have all kinds of equipment — some of it very old — including hydraulic forming presses, welding equipment, conveyors, mechanical presses, and cranes," says Miller. "I use PMC for preventive maintenance inspections that need to take place once a week or more often."

Some of the routine tasks are simple, like checking oil levels, testing motor drives, or checking a motor drive coupling for oil leaks. "PMC is an automated 'tickler' that generates a work order when a procedure is due," says Miller. Each week, he estimates, his staff completes between 25 and 60 preventive maintenance work orders.

## Safety Pays Dividends

Miller says he is blessed with a division manager, Danny Balthes, who is a proponent of preventive maintenance. "It has to start with top managers who allow middle management to do the right thing," states Miller. "Without that, it's probably futile to have a viable preventive maintenance program."

Miller says that without the preventive maintenance program, some areas on the production floor would be overlooked. "Right now I'm instituting an inspection program for some fittings used for high-pressure testing," he explains.

DPSI Corporate  
1801 Stanley Rd. Suite 301  
Greensboro, NC 27407  
Toll-free: 800-897-7233  
Phone: 336-854-7700  
Fax: 336-292-9878

<http://www.dpsi.com>

DS 030.082813

**Maintenance management software for the enterprise, unequalled service for the user.**

# Case Study: Manchester Tank & Equipment

“These were not in our rigid inspection program until two days ago. This type of equipment often gets put aside for ‘more important’ work. But in reality, it’s a critical safety issue. Safety is where preventive maintenance is really going to pay dividends.”

For example, Miller says, when a small part of a piece of equipment under high air pressure blew out and hit an employee on the thigh, he introduced an inspection procedure to ensure that it wouldn’t happen again.

PMC also helps the company meet government standards. “PMC reminds you when a safety checkup is due, and gives you hard copies of the work orders for OSHA to show the work was done,” says Miller.

## Downtime Drops 20 percent

Thanks to preventive maintenance, Manchester Tank & Equipment has been able to reduce its downtime by at least 20 percent, according to Miller. “PMC has taken away our downtime issues because we regularly maintain the equipment,” Miller explains. “We’re an almost trouble-free facility.”

## Bottom-line Payoff

PMC has saved Miller’s company a considerable amount of money. “I’m not sure I can put a number on it, but it would be a staggering amount,” he states.

“The savings come with the productivity of the equipment. On one press line, we calculate that we are losing as much as \$400 a minute when we’re not producing product.” Thanks to these savings, PMC will continue to be indispensable to Miller and his staff.

*“...we are losing as much as \$400 a minute when we’re not producing product.”*